

## REMARKS

In the Office Action dated February 10, 2003, the Examiner has set forth a requirement for species election under 35 U.S.C. §121. Specifically, the Examiner requires Applicants to elect a method of treating inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) comprising administering a specific pooled human polyclonal immunoglobulin preparation by at least identifying which immunoglobulin isotypes (i.e., IgG, IgA, IgM) are present in the composition. The Examiner contends that IgG, IgA and IgM are structurally different and therefore immunoglobulin compositions, which comprise different ratios of IgG, IgA and IgM, are distinct products. The Examiner also requires Applicants to include a listing of all claims readable upon the elected species.

In order to be fully responsive to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants provisionally elect the method of treatment comprising administering a pooled human polyclonal immunoglobulin preparation comprising at least about 25% IgG polyclonal antibodies. Applicants further submit that all claims, i.e., claims 1-12, are readable upon the elected species.

Applicants respectfully submit that a principal feature of the present invention resides in the recognition that mucosal inflammation associated with IBD can be effectively treated by oral administration of a pooled human immunoglobulin (IG) preparation. Although a preferred IG preparation for use in the methods of the present invention contains at least about 25% IgG polyclonal antibodies, other IG preparations (e.g., preparations containing less than 25% IgG or no IgG) are also suitable for use in the methods of the present invention.

It is respectfully urged that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for species election and provide an action on the merits with respect to all the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bernstein', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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